Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd., a Government of Orissa undertaking. Regular production of Ruby is expected to comence during the current financial year.

Loss in the Public Sector Fertilizer Industry

836. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is loss of more than Rs. 400 crores in the Public Sector Fertilizer Indus try;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore;

(c) the names of the Public Sector Fertilizer Plants, which are running under huge losses; and

(d) what measures Government propose to contemplate to improve the working of this Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) No, Sir. The alleged loss is highly exaggerated.

(b) The main reasons for the losses during 1986-87 are low capacity utilisation due to equipment and power problems, accumulation of stocks of fertilizers on account of low offtake due to unfavourable weather conditions extra costs incurred in holding the stocks and rebates etc. offered in exeess of the margins fixed by the Govt.

(n As per the provisional annual accounts for 1986-87. the units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (FTC), fertilizer Corooraton of Tndia *(FIC* (parent Ramagundam), Pararleen Phosphate, Ltd. (PPL! and the That unit of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. are incurring losses.

(d) Schemes have been drawn up for revamping and mouernisation of the loss making plants of FCI; for the HFC plants, the company has been asked to appoint consultants for preparing the detailed project reports for revamping. Captive power plants have been either installed, or are under installation, wherever necessary. The losses of PPL and the Thal unit of RCF are due mainly to accumulation of stocks which are expected to be liquidated when sales pick up.

Decline in Production of Pulses

837. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that production of pulses has been declining in various States of the country at present;

(b) if so, how far does it compare with the production in past two years, with details of each variety of pulses;

(c) the reasons for the declining of production of pulsea in the coun-try;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to boost the production of pulses to meet the requirement of the country indigenously; and

(e) the funds allocated for the purpose, if any, to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENRDA MAKWANA): (a) The long-term growth rate In production of pulses has been showing a declining trend in some of the States like Bihar. , Haryana. Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. However, at the all-India level, the overall production has been showing an increasing trend.

(b) Table below gives all-India production of various pulses during 1984-85 and 1985-86: —

(Lakh Tonnes)

Pulse Crop	Production 1984-85	1985-86
Tur (Arhar)	25·8	24·3
Gram	45·6	56·8
Urad	11·6	12·4
Moong	10·5	10·5
Multhi	6·3	5·8
Moth	2·7	1.0
Peas & Beans	3·3	4·2
Masur	5·5	6.5
Lakh	5·0	5.4
Others	3 3	2.7
Total Pulses	119·6	129.6

Similar break-up for the crop year 1986-87 is yet to be received from all the States.

(c) Although there have been year ly fluctuations in production of pulses in the country, the all-India produc tion has not shown a declining growth rate.

(d) and (e) To increase the indi genous production of pulses, the following strategy is being adopted during the Seventh Plan:—

1. Introduction of pulses crops in irrigated farming system such as double and multiple cropping;

2. Bringing additional area nnder: —

(a) short duration varieties of urad, moong etc., in rice fallows by utilising the residual moisture in rabi season;

(b) in summer season with irri-gation after oilseeds, sugar-cane, potato and wheat; and

(c) in rabi under lentil.

3. Inter-cropping of arhar in soya bean, baira. cotton, sugar-cane and groundnut both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions;

4, Multiplication and use of imp roved pulses seeds; adoption of plant protection measures; use of phospha-tic fertilisers and rhizobium culture; and

5. Improved post-harvesting tech nology; public policies including pric ing and marketing of pulses. In order to further increase the produc tion of pulses, the Government of India have started a Centrally Spon sored National Pulses Development Project from 1986-87. The amount sanctioned during 1986-87 for N.P.D.P. is Rs. 600.16 lakhs (Central share). During 1987-88 under N.P.D.P. an amount of Rs. 368.59 lakhg (Central share) has been sanctioned for field program mes.

Sale of inferior quality of foodgrains through ratfon shops

838. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that infe rior quality of foodgrain is being sold from fair Price Shops in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;